

This is an official

DHEC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network
20 July 2007, 3:20 PM

Investigation of an outbreak of botulism associated with commercially-canned hot dog chili sauce

Background

Public health officials in Indiana, Texas, and at the CDC are investigating an outbreak of botulism associated with commercially-canned hot dog chili sauce. Foodborne botulism is a rare but serious paralytic illness caused by consuming foods that contain botulinum toxin, a nerve toxin that is produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*.

As of July 19, 2007, four cases of botulism have been reported to CDC from Indiana (2 cases) and Texas (2 cases). Onset dates range from June 29 to July 9, 2007. All four persons were reported to have consumed Castleberry's brand Hot Dog Chili Sauce Original. Botulinum toxin was identified in leftover chili sauce from an unlabeled sealable bag collected from a patient's refrigerator.

Recalled Products

Due to possible contamination with botulinum toxin, CDC and FDA are advising persons not to eat the following brands with "best by" dates from April 30, 2009 through May 22, 2009:

- Bunker Hill Chili No Beans, 10-ounce can (UPC 7526604112)
- Castleberry's Austex Hot Dog Chili Sauce, 10-ounce can (UPC 3030099533)
- Castleberry's Barbeque Pork, 10-ounce can (UPC 3030000402)
- Castleberry's Chili with Beans, 15-ounce can (UPC 3030001015)
- Castleberry's Hot Dog Chili Sauce, 10-ounce sauce (UPC 3030000101)
- Cattle Drive Chili with Beans, 15-ounce can (UPC 3030001515)
- Kroger Hot Dog Chili Sauce, 10-ounce can, (UPC 1111083942)
- Meijer Corned Beef Hash, 15-ounce can (UPC 4125095229)
- Morton House Corned Beef Hash, 15-ounce can, (UPC 7526665830)
- Southern Home Corned Beef Hash, 15-ounce can (UPC 0788015360)

For more information concerned recalled products

Consumers with questions about the recall should contact company Consumer Hotline at (888) 203-8466. Media with questions about the recall should contact the company public affairs representative, Della Sweetman, at (619) 200-0436 or Doug McGraw at (212) 453-2202.

Clinical Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of botulism include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, and muscle weakness. If untreated, descending paralysis of muscles may occur, starting with those in the face and progressing in a downward manner. Paralysis of the breathing muscles can lead to death unless prompt medical care is sought. After consumption of contaminated food, symptoms generally begin 18 to 36 hours later, but they can occur as early as 6 hours or as late as 10 days afterwards. An antitoxin is available from the CDC for those patients with symptoms suggesting exposure to botulism toxin.

Clinical specimens for testing

Questions regarding appropriate clinical specimens to collect when testing for the presence of botulinum toxin should be directed to the SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories at: 803-896-0800.

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Suspected botulism cases should be reported immediately to SC DHEC via the numbers listed below. SC DHEC will facilitate communication between the clinician and the CDC to determine if release of botulism antitoxin is indicated. This is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf.

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2006-2007

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126, x-138 or x-174
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3806
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 549-1516, x-214
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



www.scdhec.gov

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.